

*Mr. Swinn
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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1960.



BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
"Eastlands",
London Road,
Basingstoke.

August, 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1960. As is customary, I would like to draw your attention to some features of the report in this preface.

General Health - In spite of the very poor and wet summer, 1960 was a year with below average general sickness rate and only during the months of July and August did the claims for sickness benefit rise in the local Insurance Office. The number of notifications of infectious diseases is also the lowest for some years. The number of deaths due to pneumonia, however, is higher than in recent years, in spite of there being no influenza epidemic; the deaths were mainly elderly women.

With the various small outbreaks of diphtheria in parts of the country, diphtheria prophylaxis was stepped up. This tended to be a little neglected with the pressure of poliomyelitis vaccination. Vaccination against poliomyelitis was offered to the 25 - 40 age group, but the response was poor.

Vital Statistics - Some increase occurred in the number of births, but deaths are average for the year. Other statistics compare with those of last year and are satisfactory.

Social and Sanitary Circumstances - Following completion of the first stage of the main drainage scheme in Basing there was a strong build up of housing in that area. The second stage has been commenced and is proceeding satisfactorily. Some apprehension was felt in the Parish with the proposed extension of the sewage disposal works for the Basingstoke Borough Council in its present form. A joint meeting was held at which representatives from the Borough Council explained their permanent proposals.

During the year the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960 was passed and in association with the County Planning Authority, model conditions for licensing were made.

Following the discovery of a Brucella infection in a herd of cattle in the district, difficulties in its effective control were experienced, but the problem is steadily being resolved.

Weekly collection of refuse was commenced in 1960.

It may not be inappropriate for me to mention in this report that a five day working week for the staff of the Council was commenced as an experiment, and is greatly appreciated.

The report covers a period during which Dr. A.E.P. Twort was your Medical Officer and credit must be paid for a very satisfactory steering during a difficult year. My thanks to the Council and Officers, in particular to the staff of the Public Health Department, for their kindness and help shown to me during the period I have been acting as your Medical Officer.

Yours faithfully,

P.L. KARNEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area.....	74,790	acres
Population - Registrar General's Estimate		
	Mid 1960....	18,000
Number of inhabited houses.....	4,881	
Rateable Value.....	£197,400	
Product of penny rate.....	£788	

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>		Male	Female	Total	1959	1958
	Legitimate,.....	136	171	307	283	264
Live births	Illegitimate,.....	4	7	11	15	7
	Birth rate per 1000 population (corrected)..			21.2	20.3	18.5
	Average for England and Wales.....			17.1	16.5	16.4

Births were mainly in Basing (39), Bramley (32), E. Oakley (22), Pamber (24), Sherfield-on-Loddon (20), Sherborne St. John (15) and Silchester (13).

DEATHS.

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Deaths from all causes.....	152	152	304	251	358
Death rate per thousand (corrected).....			9.8	7.5	10.2
Average for England and Wales.....			11.5	11.6	11.7

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

From all causes..... Nil Nil Nil

INFANT MORTALITY.

<u>INFANT MORTALITY.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Legitimate.....	6	2	8	4	14
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-	-	1

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS.

	<u>Under 24 hrs.</u>	<u>Under 1 week</u>	<u>1 - 4 weeks</u>	<u>1 - 3 months</u>	<u>3 - 6 months</u>	<u>6 - 12 months</u>
Congenital Malformations....	-	-	1	-	-	-
Prematurity.....	1	--	-	-	-	-
Atelectasis.....	1	--	-	-	-	-
Bronchopneumonia.....	-	--	1	-	-	1
Miscellaneous group.....	1	1	1	-	-	-

STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Legitimate.....	1	1	2	6	6
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-	-	2

Analysis of Causes of Death.

Code

<u>No.</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
1	Tuberculosis Respiratory.....	-	-	-	1	-
3	Syphilitic Disease.....	-	-	-	-	1
8	Measles.....	-	-	-	1	-
10	Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach.....	4	2	6	4	5
11	Lung & Bronchus.....	4	1	5	9	9
12	Breast.....	-	5	5	6	4
13	Uterus.....	-	-	-	2	4
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms....	17	4	21	22	21
15	Leukaemia.....	-	1	1	1	-
16	Diabetes.....	1	5	6	1	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	16	16	32	32	59
18	Coronary Disease or Angina.....	31	14	45	27	36
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	2	5	7	9	19
20	Other Heart Disease.....	28	42	70	73	97
21	Other Circulatory Disease.....	4	6	10	13	13
22	Influenza.....	-	-	-	6	4
23	Pneumonia.....	8	27	35	20	13
24	Bronchitis.....	5	3	8	9	9
25	Other Disease of Respiratory System.....	4	-	4	1	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.....	3	-	3	1	4
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea.....	-	1	1	-	2
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	3	1	4	1	8
29	Hyperplasia of Prostrate.....	1	-	1	1	2
31	Congenital Malformations.....	1	2	3	3	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases....	12	9	21	15	28
33	Motor vehicle accidents.....	1	1	2	3	6
34	All other accidents.....	5	7	12	10	4
35	Suicide.....	1	-	1	-	5
36	Homicide.....	-	-	-	-	-



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EPIDEMIOLOGY.

In 1960, in spite of the very wet summer, there was a very low rate of sickness claim benefits at the local National Insurance Office. There was a slight increase in the average figure for the wet months of July and August. Notifications for infectious diseases are also very low. Pneumonia deaths are higher than last year, although there was no influenza epidemic; deaths were mostly elderly women.

Notifiable Diseases.

Measles.....	3
Scarlet Fever.....	6
Pneumonia.....	2
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary.....	6
Non Pulmonary...	1
Erysipelas.....	3
Dysentery.....	3
Whooping Cough.....	5
Food Poisoning.....	1

Immunisation - Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

During the year 315 primary courses were given, of which 25 were with combined vaccine (with whooping cough) and 242 with triple vaccine (tetanus added). In addition 293 were given booster doses.

<u>Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)</u>	<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1-4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>Total under 15 years</u>
1956 - 1960	74	797	969	413	2253
1955 or earlier			344	1108	1452

Vaccination - Smallpox.

The rate of children under one year successfully vaccinated during the year ending 31st December 1960 is:-

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Basingstoke Rural District	76.1	60.4	62.0

Vaccination - Poliomyelitis.Figures in age groups.

<u>Born</u>	<u>1960</u> <u>2nd inj.</u>	<u>1959</u> <u>2nd inj.</u>	<u>1960</u> <u>3rd inj.</u>	<u>1959</u> <u>3rd inj.</u>
1960	19	-	1	-
1959	127	36	63	-
1958	12	48	106	57
1957	6	62	32	164
1956	1	53	29	162
1955	2	33	21	147
1954	11	33	26	154
1953	4	52	30	176
1952	7	38	24	141
1951	3	50	27	156
1950	8	44	27	129
1949	5	54	28	179
1948	1	52	35	158
1947	3	60	41	180
1946	3	79	44	141
1945	1	70	41	124
1944	4	94	46	123
1943	6	69	48	105
1933 - 42	113	766	494	402
Aged under 40	435	-	111	-
All others	46	138	28	125

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The district comprises 34 parishes and is mainly agricultural and residential. In recent years there has been a considerable increase in new houses built both by the Council and privately. Amenities have also improved - there is now a piped water supply in most areas and sewerage in all the larger parishes. The estimated population as given by the Registrar General shows a slight increase, and this will no doubt steadily increase with the expansion in the Basingstoke Borough.

General Health Services.

The County Council is the Health Authority. The local District Health Sub-Committee are responsible for helping and advising on these services.

Maternity and Child Welfare - Health Visiting.

Child Welfare Centres are situated throughout the district. Activities, at which a doctor and nurse attend, include advice on feeding and child management, immunisation and the distribution of welfare foods. Attendance at these centres has continued to be high.

District Midwifery and Home Nursing.

Annual Statistics for 1960 - 1959 figures in brackets for comparison.

	<u>Midwifery - All Cases</u>	<u>CASES</u>		<u>VISITS</u>
		<u>Gen:</u>		
Bramley	25 (48)	88	(157)	2146 (4531)
Preston Candover	17 (15)	52	(58)	1532 (1497)
Silchester	21 (19)	31	(36)	1573 (1509)
Upton Grey	10 (8)	102	(175)	1659 (1534)
Oakley	25 (36)	77	(84)	1531 (1497)
Basing	16 (12)	66	(74)	1612 (2330)
Sherborne St. John	11 (3)	17	(4)	1168 (496)

Home Help Service.Summary of cases assisted.

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>
Maternity	3	2
Pre or Post Maternity	2	3
General Sickness	4	3
Post Hospital	5	3
Child Care	-	4
Chronic Sickness	4	-
Aged Sickness	8	5
Aged and Infirm	8	6
Tuberculosis	-	1
Residential	-	-

Old People's Welfare.

The care and welfare of old people continues to be attracting the interest of voluntary welfare groups. The district now has 6 Old Peoples Clubs. The Club at Basing is extremely popular and now has a visiting service. It is possible that the increase in voluntary welfare work in this direction is partly responsible for the decrease in the call for the Home Help Service. Certainly, I now come to know of old people needing care and attention much earlier than previously, and I am able to put them in touch with some form of service.

Once again I am grateful to the Welfare Officer for annual statistics of work for the area (comparative figures for 1959 are given in brackets).

Visits, Applications and Admissions to Welfare Accommodation.

No. of cases visited.....	23 (32)
Applications.....	10 (14) including 2 short stay applications
Admissions.....	7 (11) including 2 short stay cases
Senile aged persons admitted to Mental Hospitals under Section 2, Lunacy Act...	8 (10)
Visits to aged sick persons and referred to bed service for chronic sick.....	1 (5)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.Housing.

Number of dwellings completed since 1945 (as at 31.12.60).

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Completed 1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Private	749	104	75	104
Council	694	76	22	20

76 houses were completed by the Council, the majority being at Basing, as building here was previously held up owing to the absence of a sewerage scheme.

Slum Clearance.

The Ministry of Housing & Local Government approved the Council's programme for the demolition of 56 further houses within the next five years.

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960.

Following the passing of the above Act, suitable model conditions were adopted as a standard for the licensing of all caravans in the area.

Water Supply.

Piped water supplies are now available in all parishes. Regular sampling of water is carried out by the Department (details in the Senior Public Health Inspector's Report) and by the Statutory Water Company.

Sewerage.

The second stage of the Basing sewerage scheme was commenced and work is progressing in the Byfleet Estate. Some difficulty was experienced in the Sherborne St. John disposal works owing to the varying volume of sewerage from Park Prewett Hospital and it was decided to add an additional humus tank. Expansion in the Sherfield-on-Loddon area also necessitated an extension at the disposal works.

Food Supplies.Milk.

Early in the year the routine sample taken from a herd of cattle in the district was found to give a positive culture to the Brucella abortus organism.

This farm was a T.T. herd and supplied a fair amount of unpasteurised milk to customers. This was stated to be in demand and was a feature of their sales, and one which they were reluctant to change. Fortunately a stream separated two distinct fields in the farm's pasture and following samples taken from all the cattle, the herd was separated into positive and negative herds and kept apart. Milk from the positive herd was required to be pasteurised. The problem was further complicated in that the farmer some years previously had started to vaccinate his calves against Brucella, but failed to continue the practice. He proved, however, to be very co-operative and the positive elements in the herd are being steadily decreased.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1960.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following report concerning work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors during 1960.

Much of your Inspectors' time was devoted to the improvement of food hygiene and the raising of housing standards. Again, a large number of owners took advantage of grants available for the general modernisation and re-conditioning of older dwellings. This is most beneficial to the district and preserves the pleasant characteristics of country dwellings.

In August, new legislation affecting the licensing of caravans was conferred upon local authorities and this more effective control will ensure that sites are properly equipped and maintained.

During the year a weekly refuse collection was introduced and readily appreciated by householders.

Number and Nature of Visits and Inspections.

Houses under Public Health Acts.....	364
Houses under Housing Acts.....	184
Improvement Grants and Standard Grants.....	434
Overcrowded Houses.....	8
re Housing Applications.....	103
re Water Supply.....	93
Petroleum Installations.....	87
Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites.....	168
Factories.....	38
Schools.....	13
Food Premises.....	264
Refuse Collection and Disposal.....	339
Rodent Control.....	30
Cesspool Emptying Service.....	64
Re-visits Following Service of Notices.....	174
Miscellaneous Visits.....	134
Complaints Received and Investigated.....	82

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

Outstanding December 1959	Served 1960	Complied with 1960	Outstanding December 1960
Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal
32	65	20	34
34	59	18	40

FOOD PREMISES.

Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors regarding food and food premises were as follows:-

	<u>No. in District.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>
General Provision Shops	51	58
Butchers Shops	4	27
Inns and Off Licences	43	19
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	8	40
Bakehouses	4	9
Registered Ice Cream Premises	58	18
Registered Sausage Manufacturers	7	16
Hospitals and Old Peoples Homes	4	9
Dairies and Milk Distributors	32	37
Schools	25	14
Clubs	11	8
Watercress Growers	7	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total -	254	264
	<hr/>	<hr/>

MILK SAMPLING.

<u>Grade of Milk</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Pasteurised	10	10	Nil
Tuberculin Tested	13	12	1
Total -	<u>23</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>1</u>

142 samples were subjected to the Milk Ring Test and 27 gave a positive result. 49 guinea pig tests were made of which 7 were positive.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

7 samples were taken and were reported upon as follows:-

Grade 1 - 7
Grade 2 - Nil
Grade 3 - Nil
Grade 4 - Nil

There are no ice cream manufacturers in this district and only pre-packed ice cream is sold.

WATERCRESS.

Watercress growers continue to subject their produce to chlorination, to the benefit of all concerned.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

No public slaughterhouses exist in the area.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Regular inspections of food premises continued during the year and advice was given to food handlers to ensure that due precaution is taken to prevent contamination.

A good deal of casual and short term labour is necessarily employed in the catering industry and constant supervision cannot be relaxed until hygienic practices become the regular habit of all food handlers. Attention was directed particularly to roadside cafes and similar premises and considerable improvements were effected.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Public mains were sampled regularly during the year. Of 22 samples taken from private sources, 12 proved unsatisfactory. Action was taken to provide a satisfactory alternative supply in these cases, or improvements to wells were made when no piped supply was available.

Properties within reasonable distance of the new mains were inspected and 3 Notices were served requiring the provision of internal supplies.

A mains extension in the Heatherwood area of Up Nately was completed during the year.

SWIMMING POOL.

One public swimming pool exists in the area at Old Basing, but due to inclement weather during the summer months, it was used less frequently than in previous years. Sampling revealed the water to be of satisfactory purity.

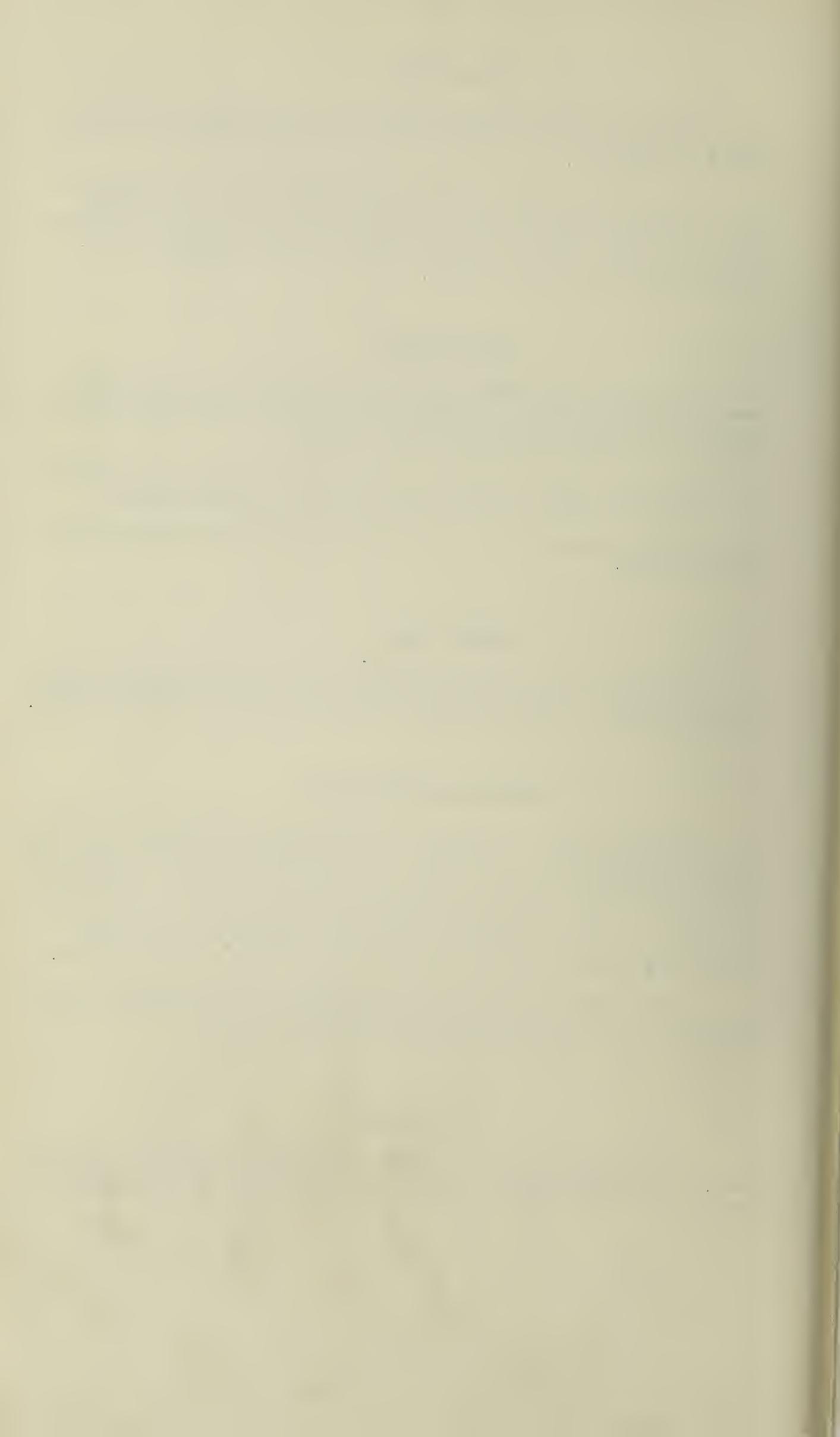
CARAVANS AND CARAVAN SITES.

The Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960 which came into force in August requires the Council to issue licences in respect of all sites where Planning permission is granted. The Council has adopted a schedule of Standard Conditions for these sites and these are appropriately incorporated in licences. There seems little doubt that modern caravans are here to stay and the new licensing control will ensure that whether used for holidays or as homes, they have their proper place in the community and that caravan dwellers enjoy sites which are properly laid out, equipped and maintained.

During 1960, 55 licences were issued under the old legislation and by the end of the year 13 of these had been revised to conform to the standard of the new Act. 2 applications for licences were refused.

HOUSING ACTS.

Steady progress in dealing with unfit properties continued during the year. The following shews the position at the end of 1960, and the progress made in the 10 year programme undertaken by the Council in August 1955:-



Total unfit at 31.8.55	...	...	...	...	...	...	5C 93	5B 79	5A 96	Total 268
Properties Demolished	...	...	...	...	...	50	12	11	73	
Orders served and awaiting demolition	...	...	...	...	3	-	2	5		
"Time and Place" Notices awaiting consideration	...	...	...	...	-	3	4	7		
Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	3	13	
Owners' Formal Undertakings accepted	...	...	...	...	19	10	5	34		
Improved and rendered fit for habitation..	...	...	...	...	16	20	26	62		
In course of improvement and re-conditioning...	...	...	...	...	1	4	9	14		
Purchased by Council (Vyne Estate Properties) ..	...	...	...	...	1	2	-	3		
Action deferred..	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	-	1	
					93	59	60	212		
					=====	=====	=====	=====		

Still to be considered by Council (before the end of 1965) ... - 20 36 56

The half way stage in this clearance programme has now been reached and such good progress has been made that less than 20% of the initial problem now remains.

During 1960, a further 11 families comprising 33 persons were rehoused from unfit houses. Formal action resulted in 13 more houses being demolished, 1 was closed, and the Council accepted from owners undertakings to use 5 dwellings for purposes other than human habitation.

Cases of statutory overcrowding in the district are very few, but the present standard fails to reveal the many cases where sleeping accommodation is inadequate for the number of occupants. These refer particularly to dwellings occupied by more than one family.

Improvement Grants.

32 applications in respect of 40 properties were approved during the year. 1 application was refused. Since the Act was introduced, grants have been approved in respect of 378 properties.

Repairs.

71 houses were rendered fit for habitation, as a result of informal action by your officers.

Standard Grants.

Applications approved	-	48
Applications refused	-	1
Applications withdrawn	-	5
Total	-	54

There has been a marked decrease in the number of applications received for these grants, which tend to favour the owners of urban property. In Rural areas, drainage works to a property and the construction of a new cesspool or septic tank is often costly, with the result that the owner is at a disadvantage when compared with his urban counterpart.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTIONS AND DISPOSAL.

In May, a weekly collection of refuse and salvage was introduced throughout the area. This involved the purchase of a new vehicle and the employment of additional staff. Three diesel powered Shelvoke & Drewry 13 cu.yd. fore and aft tipping vehicles are now in service daily, and a 13 cu.yd. side loader of the same manufacture is held in reserve.

All refuse continues to be taken to the controlled tip at Kiln Lane, Sherborne St. John. As the life of this tip is very limited, the Council negotiated with the owner for a 21 year lease of Marnel Dell, Sherborne St. John. In March, after a Public Inquiry conducted by the Minister of Housing & Local Government, authority to use this disused chalk pit for tipping purposes was granted. Preparatory clearance works for the construction of a roadway were commenced during the year and it is anticipated that in the autumn of 1961 full use will be made of the site. The Council has entered into an agreement with the Basingstoke Borough Council whereby the latter may dispose of agreed quantities of refuse, but complete control of the site will remain with this Council.

New and more powerful mechanical plant was purchased during the year for the construction of the roadway referred to above and for future general use at Marnel Dell. In due course, the 1954 Bristol 22 Angledozer will be disposed of.

The Depot at Coronation Road, Basingstoke, remains adequate for present requirements.

During the year the following materials were salvaged and a bonus scheme for the employees continued:-

	<u>Quantity</u>				<u>Value</u>
	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	lbs	
Paper	-	104	17	1	21
Rags	-	2	17	1	21
Metals	-	6	6	-	£35
					£856

Comparative figures with former years are:-

1959 - £663

1958 - £586

The introduction of the weekly collections increased the mileage covered by this service to 26,064.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

Although many more properties were connected to sewers during the year, no relief was felt in the demands made upon this service, due to the increasing number of new drainage systems installed in unsewered areas. The fullest use was made of public sewers for the disposal of the vehicle's contents. The vehicle proved unreliable and costly to maintain and delivery of a new one, ordered in March, was still awaited at the end of the year.

Charges for the work have remained unchanged since 1957, and are:-

1st load (or part load)..... 30/-
Subsequent loads (or part loads).... 23/-

A 10% reduction on all charges where a contract is entered into, continues.

These charges are reduced by one half for the third and subsequent emptying of a domestic pit during a financial year.

During the year 2,299 loads were removed, 12,815 miles were covered, and the income from the service was £2,405.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

38 inspections were made and it was found necessary to serve 3 written notices, all of which were complied with.

SHOPS ACT 1950.

73 inspections were made, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences. 5 written notices were served and complied with.

PESTS.

No bed bug or flea infestations were reported during the year.

Fewer complaints of flies were received than normally, but infestations were treated by the Council's employees as the occasion arose.

A number of reports were received of the presence of wasps nests and these were eradicated where, in the broadest sense, they could be considered a menace to public health.

MAIN DRAINAGE.

In the parishes of Old Basing, North Waltham, Sherborne St. John and Sherfield-on-Loddon, a further 107 properties were connected to public sewers during the year.

The provision of further sewers and an enlarged disposal works at Old Basing was commenced during the summer.

CONVERSION OF PAIL CLOSETS INTO WATER CLOSETS.

In the parishes where public sewers are available the Council have now assisted owners of 126 properties towards the cost of converting pail closets into water closets in accordance with the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's sewers in Sherborne St. John, Sherfield-on-Loddon and North Waltham were test baited. Minor infestations were found at Sherfield-on-Loddon and Sherborne St. John.

Details of other rodent control work carried out during the year were:-

1) Number of properties inspected:-

(a) Domestic and business	-	1,762
(b) Agricultural	-	152

2) Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections):-

(a) Domestic and Business	-	2,982
(b) Agricultural	-	1,045

3) Properties found infested by:-

(a) Rats	-	403
(b) Mice	-	48

4) Number of properties treated
by Council's Rodent Operators - 457

5) "Block Control" schemes
carried out - 72

The Council's policy of providing a free disinfestation service to householders continued, but treatments at business and agricultural premises were carried out upon request and repayment of the cost involved.

LICENCES IN FORCE.

Petroleum	-	89
Slaughtermen	-	1
Slaughterhouses	-	1
Game Dealers	-	2
Moveable Dwellings	-	55
Milk Distributors	-	32
Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	-	58
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausages	-	7

My thanks are due to the staff of the Public Health Department for the ready help and support I have received in all matters.

Yours obediently,

P.C. BOX,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

